

CLAIMS

We Claim:

- 1 1. A method of providing message notification for a user in an instant messaging  
2 system comprising the steps of:  
3 a. registering a message notification application to at least one instant messaging  
4 service;  
5 b. signing a user onto the message notification application by adding the user to a  
6 buddy list of the message notification application; and  
7 c. sending an instant message notification to the user when a message arrives for the  
8 user.
- 1 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of sending an instant message  
2 notification is performed by sending the instant message notification to the user through the at  
3 least one instant messaging service.
- 1 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of retrieving the  
2 message by accessing a server.
- 1 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the server is one of an application, a  
2 voice messaging and a unified messaging server.
- 1 5. The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of accessing the  
2 server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a telephone.
- 1 6. The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of retrieving  
2 messages from the server by an internet appliance.
- 1 7. The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of deleting a  
2 message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.

Sub A17

1 8. An apparatus for providing message notification where and when a user is most  
2 likely to hear or see notification and allowing the user to instantly review new messages  
3 comprising:  
4 a. at least one instant messaging service;  
5 b. a message notification application having a buddy list and registered to the at least  
6 one instant messaging service;  
7 c. a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification  
8 application to operate; and  
9 d. an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message  
10 notification.

1 9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein in response to a user signing up to  
2 receive messages with the message notification application the user is automatically added to the  
3 buddy list of the message notification application.

1 10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the message notification application  
2 sends the user the instant message notification through the at least one instant messaging service  
3 when a message arrives for the user.

1 11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for retrieving the  
2 message from the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and  
3 using a telephone.

1 12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the server is one of an application, a  
2 voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

1 13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for deleting the  
2 message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.

1 14. A message notification system that operates where and when a user is most likely  
2 to hear or see notification and allowing the user to instantly review new messages comprising:  
3 a. at least one instant messaging service;

- 4 *Sub A' 7* b. a message notification application having a buddy list and registered to the at least  
5 one instant messaging service;  
6 c. a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification  
7 application to operate; and  
8 d. an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message  
9 notification.

1 15. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein in response to a  
2 user signing up to receive messages with the message notification application the user is  
3 automatically added to the buddy list of the message notification application.

1 16. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the message  
2 notification application sends the user the instant message notification through the at least one  
3 instant messaging service when a message arrives for the user.

1 17. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising means  
2 for retrieving the message from the server by one of sending a request to the message notification  
3 application and using a telephone.

1 18. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the server is one  
2 of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

1 19. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising means  
2 for deleting the message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the  
3 server.

1 20. A message notification system for a user in an instant messaging system  
2 comprising:

- 3 a. means for registering a message notification application to at least one instant  
4 messaging service;  
5 b. means for signing a user onto the message notification application by adding the  
6 user to a buddy list of the message notification application; and

5-17 A17

7 c. means for sending an instant message notification to the user when a message  
8 arrives for the user.

1 21. The message notification system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the instant  
2 message notification is sent to the user by the message notification application through the at  
3 least one instant messaging service.

1 22. The message notification system as claimed in claim 20 further comprising means  
2 for the user to retrieve the message by accessing a server.

1 23. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the server is one  
2 of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

1 24. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the user accesses  
2 the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a  
3 telephone.

1 25. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the message is  
2 retrieved from the server by an internet appliance.

1 26. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the  
2 step of deleting the message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the  
3 server.

Sub A' 7

- 1 27. A method of providing a voice messaging notification application for a user in an
- 2 instant messaging system comprising the steps of:
- 3 a. registering a message notification application to at least one instant messaging
- 4 service;
- 5 b. adding a user to a buddy list of the instant messaging service;
- 6 c. sending an instant message notification to the user when a message arrives for the
- 7 user; and
- 8 d. allowing the user access to a server by one of using an internet appliance and
- 9 using a telephone.

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